

**SVARM
WASATCH
COUNTY**

Date: Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Time: 10:00 AM

Place: County Building Extension Office

Members Present;

Rick Baxter (BYU)

Craig Clyde (UDWR)

Mark Farmer (UDWR)

Mike Tamlllos (USDA WS)

Sarah Lupis (USU Ext.)

John Rice (UMC)

Jim Spencer (NRCS)

Barbara Carey (NRCS)

Jeremy Maestas (NRCS/RC&D)

Deb Collins (USU/ USDA WS)

Allan Smith (Local Rancher/landowner)

David Bailey (UFBF)

**Planning/update
meeting**

Information Presented

www.cnr.usu.edu/cbc

Jeremy and Barbara presented a summary of NRCS programs available that might be useful to landowners in this area. See the attached power point presentation or contact Jeremy for more information.

Sarah reviewed Chapter 2 with the group.

Discussion Highlights

Discussion about the easement. The DWR felt that the price tag was too high and that they were not interested in an easement without the mineral rights. Rick commented that there was a lot of concern over all the changes in acreage, etc. Jeff W. (in an earlier phone conversation) indicated that based on his conversations after the field meeting with Ed, that the family was probably going to pursue the development option. Rick and Mark indicated that there is a 300 acre parcel south of Windy Ridge that might be more important to pursue and easement on. The owner of that property lives in AZ. 65% of the population has been using that piece of land. Thus far, no one has made contact with the landowner regarding the possibility of an easement. John R. commented that we might want to wait until the Group has developed an idea of their goals and objectives before pursuing additional properties. Mark and Rick agreed that this was important and assured the Group that this idea was not necessarily of immediate importance, however, no one has spoken to the landowner to really know what their intentions are for the property. The Group agreed that the Collard property was simply a critical opportunity. Rick added that it is

important to look at the history of sage-grouse populations rangewide when considering what is “critical” today. To him, it seems like human encroachment in the Strawberry Area makes everything critical to the population. Alan Smith added that he feels that it will be virtually impossible for anyone to acquire property/development rights that include mineral rights because families have dispersed those rights amongst different individuals, and for the future cost. He feels that in the future we would be able to mitigate for those impacts by controlling access and other things that would prevent mineral development.

The Group discussed potential opportunities to highlight NRCS programs at other local working group meetings and using the web site to demonstrate what Allen Smith is doing on his land in cooperation with the NRCS to manage sage-grouse populations and habitat. Jeremy also commented that one of the strengths of the local working group process is that it allows university researches to monitor the effects of habitat improvement projects on habitat and populations.

The group discussed

Actions Taken

Meeting minutes from May approved.

Follow-up Needed

Sarah to look into local climate information, sage-grouse as an umbrella species, socio-economic information from the county and the National Ag. Stat. Service, and land use information from the local college.

Rick to send information to Sarah about current status of the sage-grouse population and the translocation effort.

Group to review Chapter 2 and provide comments. Specifically to look at where area specific information should go.

Alan Smith to present on his experience cooperation with the NRCS on habitat restoration.

Sarah to contact landowners and send invites to dinner meeting. Sarah to organize food and location for dinner meeting.

Mike T. to coordinate with Mike B. on content for predator population and predator control sections of Chapter 2.

Dave to announce dinner meeting in FBA newsletter and include web site for more information.

MOU finalized over email and comments sent in by Friday, August 19th.

NEXT MEETING: Dinner meeting 7:00 PM, Tuesday, September 13th.

Agenda: “Purpose and Power of SVARM”; Alan Smith on his experiences managing sage-grouse habitat on his property.